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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW ALL
ASPECTS OF THE SET OF MULTILATERALLY AGREED
EQUITABLE PRINCIPLES AND RULES FOR THE CONTROL
OF RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES
Geneva, 13 November 1995
Agenda item 8 (b)

Declaration of Tunis

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The African Workshop on Competition Policy (Tunis, 17-18 October 1995), held within the preparatory process for the Third Review Conference, pursuant to section I, paragraph (f), of the agreed conclusions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices at its fourteenth session, 1/ has adopted the Declaration of Tunis annexed hereto for submission to the Third Review Conference.

1/ Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices on its fourteenth session, TD/B/42(1)/3-TD/B/RBP/106, annex I.

GE.95-53650 (E)

DECLARATION OF TUNIS

The African Workshop on Competition Policy was held in Tunis from 17 to 18 October 1995, within the preparatory process for the Third Review Conference

1. Having emphasized the important role of competition policy in the economic reforms being carried out in their countries, and considering the increasingly worldwide character and the liberalization of trade, the participants call on the new Secretary-General of UNCTAD to give competition policy the priority it deserves within UNCTAD and, in particular, to ensure that human and financial resources appropriate to the needs of member States in this field are made available. In this connection, the Third Review Conference and UNCTAD IX will provide an opportunity for member States to indicate the importance they attach to competition as an instrument for development.

2. The participants invite African countries to increase the level of their participation in current world studies of competition policy, through increased presence at the expert level in international forums and particularly in the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices.

It is strongly hoped and recommended that the countries participating in this Workshop, as well as other countries, will attend the forthcoming Third Review Conference, particularly since Africa provided the chairman of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts at its fourteenth session held in preparation for the Third Review Conference.

3. African countries are also invited to increase cooperation and the exchange of information and know-how among their administrations and institutions responsible for competition law and policy throughout the continent, through a bilateral, subregional and regional approach contributing to the adoption of rules based on common principles.

To this end, the Workshop recommends:

- that, if resources permit, a meeting be held annually at the regional level (e.g.: Mediterranean countries, sub-Saharan countries and COMESA);

- that a register of African institutions and regulations be prepared;

- that consideration be given to the establishment of mechanisms and databases relating to competition (decisions and exchange of information on restrictive business practice indices).

4. The participants recommend that the Third Review Conference take all necessary measures to establish for Africa a comprehensive project on technical cooperation and training in the field of competition policy. The aim would be to assist African countries which have not already done so in adopting a competition policy, reflected in appropriate legislation and a

competition authority, and to facilitate exchanges of experience and ensure monitoring of the training of those responsible for competition policy in the countries of Africa.

5. The international and regional financing agencies, such as UNDP and the World Bank, as well as the European Commission and the donor countries, are invited to contribute towards the establishment of such training projects for the African countries.

6. The Workshop has noted with appreciation the offer of the Tunisian Government to make the Training Centre that is being set up in the Competition Department available for the holding of seminars, workshops and training courses in the area of competition. Other African countries might volunteer to provide similar centres south of the Sahel.

7. The African Workshop also recommends that the Third Review Conference should:

(a) Confirm its support for the Set of Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, and thereby the important role played by UNCTAD in the area of competition;

(b) Decide to rename the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices the "Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition";

(c) Request the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene a fourth review conference in the year 2000.